

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/678,428

Examiner

Michael B. Holmes

Applicant(s)

TAPIO, THOMAS H.

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to April 01, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 38-70.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



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Examiner's Detailed Office Action

1. Claims 1-37 have been canceled.
2. Claims 38-70 are allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

Claim 38. A method of authoring, generating, and using a compliance application having a plurality of computer interface pages viewable with an interface the compliance application interacting with a user to find a solution to a problem through the user answering a series of questions and/or following a series of steps, the method comprising the steps of: receiving a first question, a second question, and a third question from an expert, wherein none of the first, second, and third questions have an answer which is incorrect; receiving a first potential answer to the first question and a second potential answer to the first question from the expert, wherein both the first and second potential answers to the first question are correct answers to the first question, and wherein the first and second answers are utilized in a non-dynamic and pre-populated manner to create a compliance path; receiving a first potential answer to the second question and a second potential answer to the second question from the expert, wherein both the

Art Unit: 2121

first and second potential answers to the second question are correct answers to the second question, and wherein the first and second answers are utilized in a non-dynamic and pre-populated manner to create the compliance path; receiving a solution to the problem from the expert, the solution being an answer and/or a step for the user to follow for use in the compliance application; receiving a first Boolean logic rule from the expert, the first Boolean logic rule associating the first potential answer to the first question, the first potential answer to the second question, and the third question, the first Boolean logic rule being utilized within the compliance application for directing the user through the compliance path for complying with the compliance application; receiving a second Boolean logic rule from the expert, the second Boolean logic rule associating the first potential answer to the first question, the second potential answer to the second question, and the solution, the second Boolean logic rule being utilized within the compliance application for directing the user through the compliance path for complying with the compliance application; generating the plurality of computer interface pages based on the first question, the second question, the third question, the first potential answer to the first question, the second potential answer to the first question, the first potential answer to the second question, the second potential answer to the second question, the first Boolean logic rule, the second Boolean logic rule, and the solution; transmitting a first computer interface page of the plurality of computer interface pages to the user, the first computer interface page displaying the first question to the user; receiving a first response from the user, wherein the first response is indicative of one of the first potential answer to the first question and the second potential answer to the first question, wherein if the first response is in correct syntax, the first response will always be correct and wherein at least one of the first and

Art Unit: 2121

second potential answers to the first question will match the first response and lead to a further step within the compliance path or to the solution within the compliance path; transmitting a second computer interface page of the plurality of computer interface pages to the user, the second computer interface page displaying the second question to the user as apart of the further step within the compliance lath; receiving a second response from the user, wherein the second response is indicative of one of the first potential answer to the second question and the second potential answer to the second question, wherein if the second response is in correct syntax, the second response will always be correct, and wherein at least one of the first and second potential answers to the second question will match the second response and lead to a further step within the compliance path or to the solution within the compliance path; executing at least one of the first Boolean logic rule to produce a first rule result which is indicative of the next step in the compliance path, and the second Boolean logic rule to produce a second rule result, which may also be indicative of the next step in the compliance path or may be indicative of the even further step within the compliance path; and transmitting a third computer interface page to the user, the third computer interface page displaying the third question to the user if the first rule result is positive as the next step in the compliance path, the second computer interface page displaying the further step in the compliance path or the solution to the user if the second rule result is positive.

Claim 49. A plurality of computer files storing instructions structured to facilitate authoring, generating, and using a compliance application having a plurality of pages viewable with an interface, the compliance application interacting with a user to find a solution to a problem

Art Unit: 2121

through the user answering a series of questions and/or following a series of steps, the instructions being structured to cause a computer to: receive a first question, a second question, and a third question from an expert, wherein none of the first, second, and third questions have an answer which is incorrect; receive a first potential answer to the first question and a second potential answer to the first question from the expert, wherein both the first and second potential answers to the first question are correct answers to the first question, and wherein the first and second answers are utilized in a non-dynamic and pre-populated manner to create a compliance path; receive a first potential answer to the second question and a second potential answer to the second question from the expert, wherein both the first and second potential answers to the second question are correct answers to the second question, and wherein the first and second answers are utilized in a non-dynamic and pre-populated manner to create the compliance oath; receive a solution to the problem from the expert, the solution being an answer and/or a step for the user to follow for use in the compliance application; receive a first Boolean logic rule from the expert, the first Boolean logic rule associating the first potential answer to the first question, the first potential answer to the second question, and the third question, the first Boolean logic rule being utilized by the compliance system for directing the user through the compliance path for complying with the compliance application; receive a second Boolean logic rule from the expert, the second Boolean logic rule associating the first potential answer to the first question, the second potential answer to the second question, and the solution, the second Boolean logic rule being utilized within the compliance application for directing the user through the compliance path for complying with the compliance application; generate the plurality of pages based on the first question, the second question, the third question, the first potential answer to

Art Unit: 2121

the first question, the second potential answer to the first question, the first potential answer to the second question, the second potential answer to the second question, the first Boolean logic rule, the second Boolean logic rule, and the solution; transmit a first page of the plurality of pages to the user, the first page displaying the first question to the user; receive a first response from the user, wherein the first response is indicative of one of the first potential answer to the first question and the second potential answer to the first question, wherein if the first response is in correct syntax, the first response will always be correct, and wherein at least one of the first and second potential answers to the first question will match the first response and lead to a further step within the compliance path or to the solution within the compliance oath; transmit a second page of the plurality of pages to the user, the second page displaying the second question to the user as a part of the further step within the compliance path; receive a second response from the user, wherein the second response is indicative of one of the first potential answer to the second question and the second potential answer to the second question, wherein if the second response is in correct syntax, the second response will always be correct and wherein at least one of the first and second potential answers to the second question will match the second response and lead to a further step within the compliance oath or to the solution within the compliance path; execute at least one of the first Boolean logic rule to produce a first rule result which is indicative of the next step in the compliance oath, and the second Boolean logic rule to produce a second rule result, which may also be indicative of the next step in the compliance path or may be indicative of the even further step within the compliance path; and transmit a third page to the user, the third page displaying the third question to the user if the first rule result is positive as

Art Unit: 2121

the next step in the compliance path, the second page displaying the further step in the compliance path or the solution to the user if the second rule result is positive.

Claim 60. At least one computer structured to facilitate authoring, generating, and using a compliance application having a plurality of pages viewable with an interface, the compliance application interacting with a user to find a solution to a problem through the user answering a series of questions and/or following a series of steps, the at least one computer being structured to: receive a first question, a second question, and a third question from an expert, wherein none of the first second, and third questions have an answer which is incorrect; receive a first potential answer to the first question and a second potential answer to the first question from the experts wherein both the first and second potential answers to the first question are correct answers to the first question, and wherein the first and second answers are utilized in a non-dynamic and pre-populated manner to create a compliance path; receive a first potential answer to the second question and a second potential answer to the second question from the expert, wherein both the first and second potential answers to the second question are correct answers to the second question, and wherein the first and second answers are utilized in a non-dynamic and pre-populated manner to create the compliance path; receive a solution to the problem from the expert, the solution being an answer and/or a step for the user to follow for use in the compliance application; receive a first Boolean logic rule from the expert, the first Boolean logic rule associating the first potential answer to the first question, the first potential answer to the second question, and the third question, the first Boolean logic rule being utilized by the compliance system for directing the user through the compliance path for complying with the compliance

Art Unit: 2121

application; receive a second Boolean logic rule from the expert, the second Boolean logic rule associating the first potential answer to the first question, the second potential answer to the second question, and the solution the second Boolean logic rule being utilized within the compliance application for directing the user through the compliance path for complying with the compliance application; generate the plurality of pages based on the first question, the second question, the third question, the first potential answer to the first question, the second potential answer to the first question, the first potential answer to the second question, the second potential answer to the second question, the first Boolean logic rule, the second Boolean logic rule, and the solution; transmit a first page of the plurality of pages to the user, the first page displaying the first question to the user; receive a first response from the user, wherein the first response is indicative of one of the first potential answer to the first question and the second potential answer to the first question wherein if the first response is in correct syntax, the first response will always be correct and wherein at least one of the first and second potential answers to the first question will match the first response and lead to a further step within the compliance path or to the solution within the compliance path; transmit a second page of the plurality of pages to the user, the second page displaying the second question to the user as a part of the further step within the compliance path; receive a second response from the user, wherein the second response is indicative of one of the first potential answer to the second question and the second potential answer to the second question wherein if the second response is in correct syntax. the second response will always be correct and wherein at least one of the first and second potential answers to the second question will match the second response and lead to a further step within the compliance path or to the solution within the compliance oath; execute at least one of the first

Art Unit: 2121

Boolean logic rule to produce a first rule result which is indicative of the next step in the compliance path, and the second Boolean logic rule to produce a second rule result which may also be indicative of the next step in the compliance path or may be indicative of the even further step within the compliance path; and transmit a third page to the user, the third page displaying the third question to the user if the first rule result is positive as the next step in the compliance path, the second page displaying the further step in the compliance path or the solution to the user if the second rule result is positive.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an Examiner's statement for reasons for allowance:
4. The closest prior art *Nichols et al.* (USPN 5,987,443), *Farley et al.* (USPN 5,257,185) & *Bertrand et al.* (USPN 6,018,732) does not teach or render obvious applicant's claimed invention. In particular, as pointed out below, the prior art lacks certain features and the combination as specified in the respective claims.
5. Regarding claims 38, 49 & 60 *Nichols et al.*, *Farley et al.*, and *Bertrand et al.* do not disclose authoring, generating, and using a compliance application for complying with a task by receiving questions, answers, solutions, and Boolean logic from a subject matter expert, wherein the answers are all correct, and for associating the questions, answers, and/or solutions through the Boolean logic. The answers are utilized in a non-dynamic and pre-populated manner to create a compliance path, with the compliance path taken through the generation of computer interface pages based on the questions, answers, Boolean logic and/or solutions.

Art Unit: 2121

Correspondence Information

6. Any inquires concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael B. Holmes, who may be reached Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EST. or via telephone at (571) 272-3686 or facsimile transmission (571) 273-3686 or email Michael.holmesb@uspto.gov.

If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to (703) 746-7239.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful the Examiner's Supervisor, Anthony Knight, may be reached at (571) 272-3687.

Hand-delivered responses should be delivered to the Receptionist @ (Customer Service Window Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22313), located on the first floor of the south side of the Randolph Building.

Michael B. Holmes

Patent Examiner

Artificial Intelligence

Art Unit 2121

United States Department of Commerce

Patent & Trademark Office

Friday, June 10, 2005

MBH



Anthony Knight

Supervisory Patent Examiner

Group 3600